

Learning module 6

Successful “Sogering.”

Objective: Students will evaluate the new addition to Washington’s command, Baron von Steuben, through the use of drawing and evaluation of historic paintings- Students will view a Liberty’s Kids episode clip as a follow up to Step A.

Directions: In the sixth Learning module, students will work as a small group in making decisions and fostering discussion; however, each student must remember that he/she is also moving through the steps of the module from the perspective of an individual Continental soldier who is ultimately assessing his/her ability to successfully “survive and thrive” while encamped at Valley Forge.

Step A. Who was Baron von Steuben...from the soldiers’ perspective!

First, students will complete What do you think this man called von Steuben looks like?

Second, students will complete Baron von Steuben: Evaluating Historic Paintings

Third, students will view the video segment link below:

Liberty’s Kids Episode Clip

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4SvtjbWYqJo>

(15:00-17:50)

Students may award themselves up to **5 Survival Points** on the Survival Rubric if they successfully complete the exercises in Step A.

Step B. What did Baron von Steuben really accomplish at Valley Forge?

Students will view the ranger/interpreter video clips linked below and construct responses to the questions.

Ranger Bill Troppman explains Von Steuben

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hEcpnRwVYuc&feature=relmfu>

Interpreters explaining the drilling exercises of the Continental Army

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBGH2kFimRM&feature=related>

•What do you think was Baron von Steuben’s most important quality?

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- Why was Baron von Steuben's system so unique?

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Students may award themselves up to **5 Survival Points** on the Survival Rubric if they successfully complete the exercises in Step B based on the self-assessed quality of their work.

What do you think von Steuben looks like?

In late February of 1778 the Continental Army soldiers encamped at Valley Forge heard about a new Prussian (think German) officer who had come to join the command of General George Washington: *Baron Friedrich Wilhelm August Heinrich Ferdinand von Steuben*- otherwise referred to as Baron von Steuben. As there were upwards of 10,000 men encamped at Valley Forge and Baron von Steuben was only one man, there were many who only heard about this new addition- the vast majority had to use their imaginations as to what this Prussian looked like! Read the short passages below to acquire an idea as to how the Baron joined Washington at Valley Forge:

On February 23, 1778, [Baron Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben](http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/battleswars16011800/p/valleyforge.htm) arrived in the camp. A former member of the Prussian General Staff, von Steuben had been recruited to the American cause in Paris by Benjamin Franklin. Accepted by Washington, von Steuben was put to work designing a training program for the army. Though he spoke no English, von Steuben commenced his program in March with the aid of interpreters. Beginning with a "model company" of 100 chosen men, von Steuben instructed them in drill, maneuver, and a simplified manual of arms. These 100 men were in turn sent out to other units to repeat the process and so on until the entire army was trained. In addition, von Steuben introduced a system of progressive training for recruits which educated them in the basics of soldiering. (<http://militaryhistory.about.com/od/battleswars16011800/p/valleyforge.htm>)

Students will use their imaginations as Continental Army soldiers to draw/sketch Washington's Prussian addition to his command. Be as detailed as you can so that a viewer can acquire a sense of the individual's qualities or characteristics. Use the space below!

Baron von Steuben: Evaluating Historic Paintings

Baron von Steuben 1780 Painting by Charles Wilson Peale

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

What impression of Baron von Steuben do you think Charles Wilson Peale intended to give viewers as he painted his portrait only 2 years after the Valley Forge encampment?

Baron von Steuben 1876 Painting by Ralf Earl

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

What is your impression of this man? Be specific.